

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the non-final Office Action of July 8, 2009.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

Claims 3-24 remain pending in the application.

Claims 3, 7, 16 and 23 have been amended.

Claims 1-2 and 25-26 have been cancelled without prejudice and disclaimer.

The Office Action

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0055062 A1 to Shioda et al. (hereinafter "Shioda").

§ 102 Rejections

Newly independent claim 3 now recites a multidirectional simultaneous observation optical system that includes one, two, or more side face imaging prism systems for obtaining side face images of one, two or more side faces of an object to be inspected and a bottom face imaging prism system of obtaining a bottom face image, the optical system being characterized in that each of the side face imaging prism systems and the bottom face imaging prism system has an optical path direction changing prism or an optical path direction changing prism function; the prism systems are provided so as to occupy side spaces around an open space for obtaining an image of the top face of the object to be inspected and a space below the open space such that the open space is secured right above the object to be inspected, and such that an object mount space portion is secured; and the prism systems are placed so that the optical paths for light exiting the prism systems extend upward above the object to be inspected, or along the same direction in parallel with each other, and so that the optical path from each prism system is not obstructed by any of the other prism systems, and characterized in that each of the side face imaging prism systems and the bottom face imaging prism system is provided with an optical path length correcting prism or an optical path length correcting prism function above the optical path direction changing

prism or the optical path direction changing prism function, the optical path length correcting prism or the optical path length correcting prism function being provided for the purpose of equalizing the working distance of the faces of the object to be inspected other than the top face of the same to the working distance of the top face.

Such a multidirectional simultaneous observation optical system is not shown nor suggested by Shioda, et al.

Shioda, et al. discloses an operation microscope for use in a surgical operation of a fine portion in cranial nerve surgery, and the like. The Examiner asserts that Shioda, et al. anticipates claim 3 of the present disclosure. The Applicants assert that Shioda, et al. fails to teach or suggest how a multidirectional simultaneous observation optical system having at least one of one, two or more sides imaging prism systems for obtaining side face images of at least one of one, two, or more side faces of an object to be inspected could achieve equalizing the working distance of the faces of the object to be inspected as presently claimed. The multidirectional simultaneous observation optical system of the present disclosure can be expressed as a function of obtaining images of each face from an object to be inspected directly and with parfocality. Shioda, et al. does not provide an approach having at least one of one, two or more sides imaging prism systems. Rather, the optical constitution of Shioda, et al. is a function of light fluxes paths for left and right observation fluxes incident having only a single direction "from below". Paragraph 17 of Shioda, et al. discloses triangular prisms 12a, 12b for reflecting the outgoing light axes from the prisms 11a, 11b in parallel with left and right observation light axes OL, OR by an optical eyepiece system described later are disposed/fixed behind the reversing prisms. That is, it is a function as an observation optical system for allowing optical paths to divide upward into two, i.e. left and right.

Furthermore, Shioda, et al. discloses an operation microscope for use in a surgical operation of a fine portion like in cranial nerve surgery which enables observing not only microscopic images but also input endoscopic images, tomographic images, and so on (Shioda, et al, FIGURES 7 and 8). On the other hand, the present disclosure is not an operation microscope for use in a surgical operation, but for inspection of object (s), parts or other items in quality control typical in manufacturing, i.e., an optical

system for observing varied faces of an object to be inspected simultaneously. Shioda, et al, clearly is not in the same field of endeavor as the present disclosure.

Therefore, the multidirectional simultaneous observation optical system having at least one of one, two or more sides imaging prism systems for obtaining side face images of at least one of one, two, or more side faces of an object to be inspected as presently claimed would not achieve equalizing the working distance of the faces of the object to be inspected using the optical constitution of Shioda, et al.

Accordingly, it is submitted claim 3 and claims 4-24 dependent therefrom, distinguish over the reference of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and reasons set forth, the currently pending claims 3-24 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

☒ Remaining Claims, as delineated below:

(1) For	(2) Claims remaining after amendment less highest Number previously paid for		(3) Number Extra
Total Claims	22	- 26 =	0
Independent Claims	1	- 3 =	0

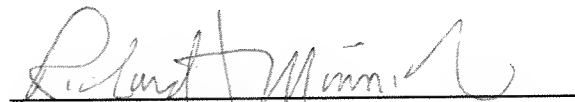
☒ This is an authorization under 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3) to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time, as incorporating a petition for the appropriate extension of time.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any filing or prosecution fees which may be required, under 37 CFR 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 (but not 1.18), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 06-0308.

If the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby authorized to contact the undersigned at telephone number 216-363-9000, Cleveland, OH.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 7, 2010
Date

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